

FCUM REVIEW

2020-2021

FA Cup 1st qualifying round
v PONTEFRACT COLLIERIES
Broadhurst Park



Tuesday 22nd September
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OFFICIAL FC UNITED OF MANCHESTER MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



Neil Reynolds

FC UNITED'S MANAGER TALKS IN THE BUILD-UP TO TONIGHT'S MATCH

I was pleased to start off the season with a point here against Nantwich Town on Saturday afternoon.

It was one of those games that could probably have gone either way but, on the balance of play, a draw was probably a fair result.

The afternoon didn't get off to the best start with Luke Griffiths unable to take his place, but Michael Donohue stepped in and put in a superb shift as he always does.

We started the game brightly, but Nantwich came back into it, and it took a couple of good stops from Dan Lavercombe to keep it all square going in at half-time.

I thought we were much better after the break, and although there was a bit of luck with the deflection,

we deserved the lead through Charlie Ennis' strike. It was obviously disappointing to then concede an equaliser just a couple of minutes later.

I don't like making excuses but I was absolutely furious with the referee making Adam Dodd go off on the wrong side of the pitch, despite him having gone down right in the middle of the park. That ended up costing us, with the goal coming from where he should've been when he came back on.

Nantwich had chances after that, but we had a golden opportunity to snatch all three points with Dan Cockerline's header in injury time. It wasn't to be though, and I think both sides will be happy to come away with a point.

Nantwich were a good side

last season, and I'm sure there'll be right in the mix again this season.

I know that the big question on everyone's lips has been how we're going to score goals following Tunde's departure in the summer. I've said it before, and I'll say it again now; Tunde is not a player you can simply go out and replace, and certainly not on the budget we are working with.

What I am confident that we will be able to do is replace those goals in aggregate. We've got some great attacking talent in this squad, and whilst it might be a slightly different way of playing compared to what we saw last season, we'll be seeing lads from all over the field chipping in with goals.

We've brought in two top-quality strikers in Michael

Fowler and Dan Cockerline. They're clearly different types of player to what we saw with Tunde last year, but I've no doubt they'll both bang in the goals as the season goes on.

We welcome Pontefract Collieries to Broadhurst Park tonight, as we start off our FA Cup campaign. It feels a little strange this being a Tuesday night game and it not being a replay, but it's obviously far from a normal season!

I've said previously how impressed I've been with the quality of the Division One North West, with some of the opposition we played in pre-season. I'd certainly add Pontefract to that conversation.

They were right up there in the play-off spots at the time the season was voided, and they'll certainly want to be making amends for that this

year. Like us, they started off the season with a point on Saturday, and will be looking to kick on today.

As far as I'm concerned, the pressure is all on us tonight. We're the higher-division side, playing at home, and I'm sure Collieries will be looking to come here and make a statement. I'm expecting to make a couple of changes from Saturday's side to keep things fresh.

Despite the reduced crowd on Saturday, the noise you all made was superb, and I'm sure we can expect a repeat of that tonight. The FA Cup is always special, and we're hoping for a good run this season.

I made it to the first round proper as a player but I'm yet to do so as a manager, and I certainly don't want us falling at the first hurdle tonight.

Reno

FA YOUTH CUP & SCARBOROUGH

FC United's youth team have been drawn at home to West Didsbury & Chorlton in the first qualifying round of this season's FA Youth Cup, to be played in the main stadium at Broadhurst Park this coming Friday, 25th September.

Admission for the game, which kicks off at 7.30pm, will be via a cash turnstile at the SMRE end of our ground.

It will cost £5 for adults, £3 for concessions (including students) and £1 for U18s.

Meanwhile, on Sunday it was confirmed that our game at Scarborough this Saturday has been switched to Broadhurst Park.

Further details will be announced via the club site and social media this week.



The FC United manager was speaking to Paul Hurst in the run-up to this evening's game

Broadhurst News

AWAY MATCH TRAVEL

There are still a very limited number of places left for the supporters' coach travelling to Morpeth Town on Saturday 10th October.

There is room for two or three more fans, priced £25 for adults and £10 accompanied U18s from same household who can sit next to each other, and must have a match ticket.

If you would like to reserve these seats then please contact Travel Organiser Pete Wharton on 07733 040 008.

Pete has also explained the situation regarding away travel, saying: "We will try to run coaches to away matches but with reduced capacity (30 passengers on a 60 seater), social distancing, wearing of masks and reduced allocations at grounds (for example, just 90 tickets for Scarborough), we face difficulties.

"In the first instance; 1. Seats will only be confirmed on payment of a deposit for each seat booked. 2. Seats can only be booked when the ticket allocation is known. 3. Child prices will continue for Under 16s, but may have to be closer to the adult seat price 4. We will run a second and third coach if the numbers stack up. "We publicise coach travel

for away games via the usual social media channels – on FC United's Unofficial Facebook page, Twitter, The Soul is One and Members' forums and I send messages to those who have joined our contact list.

"If anyone wants to go on reserve list, please ring me." You can join the away match travel contacts list by texting the number mentioned earlier.

"GET YER PROGRAMME"

Thanks to everyone who bought Saturday's FCUM Review and helped to make it a sell-out.

We will be selling from a number of specific points in and around the ground, so if you would like a copy of the printed magazine at future games, then please visit one of the following:

- Programme stall next to the SMRE/Main Stand turnstiles (pre-match, half-time and possibly full-time if any remain)
- Club Shop (pre-match and possibly full-time if any remain)
- Membership Stall (pre-match)
- Plus Mark on the forecourt near the Main Stand's main entrance (pre-match)
- We are encouraging fans to have the correct money available where possible so we can avoid dealing with

change if we can help it.

Due to the crowd restrictions, there's only a limited print run so don't miss out if you want a copy for your collection.

MEMBERSHIPS

To become a co-owner of FC United, memberships are available priced at £15 for adults and just £3 for U16s.

Please visit the official website, call 0161 769 2005 or email office@fc-utd.co.uk to become a member and owner of this thing of ours...



BELATED GREETINGS

We'd like to wish a late happy birthday to Honest Trev, who turned 68 last week.

He enjoyed being serenaded by his fellow Eccles Branch members at half-time on Saturday, and was then surprised to hear some FC tunes he'd written played over the tannoy during the break. All the best, Trev.



SWAMPY

Welcome to 'Swampy', Broadhurst Park's new weedkiller and fertiliser machine – purchased at a cost of £900 from the profit on Stockport Branch Away Coach Travel.

"We asked Graham Byrne, our groundsman, if there was anything we could purchase to help him and Jimmy Deadman keep our new Broadhurst Park pitch in tip-top form," said travel organiser Pete Wharton. "Graham identified this machine, that will spread

weedkiller and fertiliser on the pitch, and we were pleased to buy it for the club. In the past, this task was done manually so will save the lads time and effort," added Pete.

"The Stockport Branch members decided to name it 'Swampy' after our FC Radio commentator and fellow branch member.

"But this is in no way a reflection on the quality of his matchday commentary. "The fans who supported the away coaches last season have paid for this machine and it's great to see the club getting a piece of important equipment that will be put to good use for many years on Broadhurst Park."

This is the second piece of equipment named after an FC stalwart and joins 'Chaddy' the mower in the ground staff's inventory.

REDS REMAIN ON THE ROAD TO WEMBLEY



FCUMW celebrated another emphatic win in the Women's FA Cup on Sunday at Broadhurst Park, thumping Ashton Town 9-0 – with the first goal scored after just 27 seconds and being three up inside the opening three minutes.

We will feature a FCUMW squad poster in the centre of a forthcoming edition, and chat with boss Kamran Hussain.



FC UNITED MANIFESTO

Democratically agreed by the club members (owners) in 2005:

- The Board will be democratically elected by its members
- Decisions made by the membership will be decided on a one-member, one-vote basis
- The club will develop strong links with the local community and strive to be accessible to all, discriminating against none
- The club will endeavour to make admission prices as affordable as possible, to as wide a constituency as possible
- The club encourage young and local participation, playing and supporting, wherever possible
- The Board will strive to avoid outright commercialism
- The club will remain a non-profit organisation

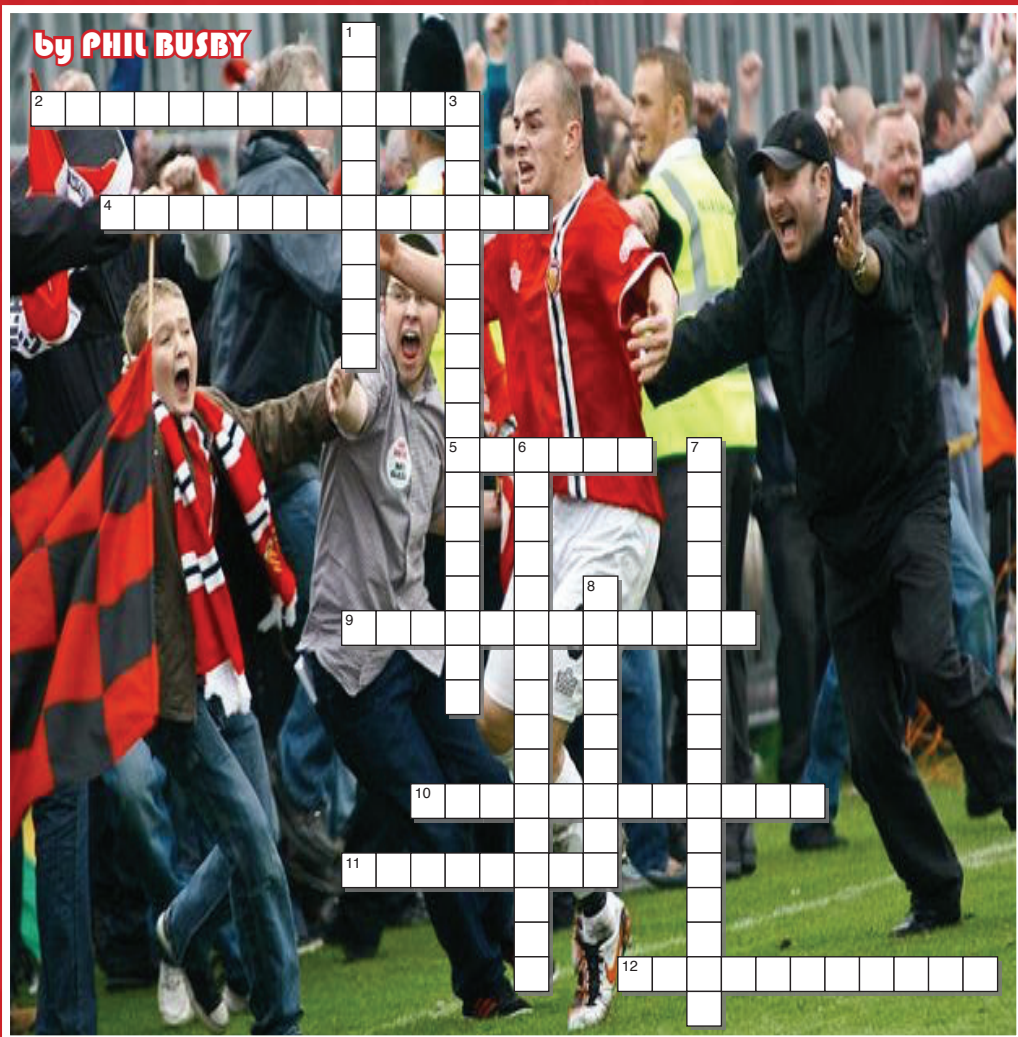
OWNERS: THE FANS

- Board Members: Adrian Seddon, Sam Mullock & Dennis Shannon
 - Secretary: Viv Ware
 - Manager: Neil Reynolds
 - Assistant: Brian Richardson
 - Coaches: David Chadwick, Mike Faulkner & Paul Chapman
 - Physio: Olivia Smith
 - Kitman: James Deadman
 - Women's team manager: Kamran Hussain
 - Women's secretary: Rob Fullen
 - Academy Manager: Tom Conroy
 - Academy Secretary: Pete Moulds
 - Operations Manager: Paul Smith
 - Community Liaison Manager: Vinny Thompson
 - Matchday/Team Secretaries: Viv Ware & Paul Delamere
- FC United Limited, Registered Society number 29969R

FCUM Review is produced by – Editor & Design: David Bergin
 Contributors: Paul Hurst, Karl Ladley, Phil Busby, Paul Hinson, Tim Browning, Craig Philips, Ruud van de Graaf, Jonathan Allsopp
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 Photos: Mark Lee, Sam Coates, Matt Wilkinson, Andy Barker, Mike Dean, Alicia Day

half-time entertainment

by PHIL BUSBY



CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

- 2) FC were at Highbury in 2007 for our second FA Cup tie. Soft toys lobbed at their keeper, bottles lobbed at ours. Who against? (9,4)
- 4) Hat-trick hero for the Reds against his namesake club as FC went through on Teesside in 2010, our 10th ever tie in the FA Cup (8,6) (see picture)
- 5) Recent visitors to Broadhurst Park in pre season, now a League club, and knocked out by FC in 2010 to set up the fantastic night at Rochdale. Number 11 in our list of FC's First 11 FA Cup ties (6)
- 9) The Dabbers knocked FC out of the competition in 2008 after a replay at Gigg Lane in our third FA Cup tie (8,4)
- 10) FC legend who scored the winner in a 2009 Replay against Stalybridge Celtic, number 6 in our list of FA Cup First 11 FA Cup ties (6,5)
- 11) That first-ever FA Cup fixture (see 1 down) was against which club? (8)
- 12) Former European Cup winner with Villa who was manager of Gainsborough Trinity when FC dumped them out of the Cup in 2010. Number 9 in our list of First 11 FA Cup ties (5,6)

Down

- 1) FC's first-ever FA Cup match was in 2007 on which club's ground? (10)
- 3) Ben Deegan dispatched this Humberside club out of the Cup in 2009, in the fifth in our list of First 11 FA Cup ties (5,7,6)
- 6) FC's famous 2010 FA Cup campaign kicked-off with our eighth-ever tie against former landlords from Stainton Park (9,7)
- 7) Now defunct Cheshire club who put FC out of the Cup in 2009 in our unlucky seventh FA Cup tie (9,8)
- 8) Our fourth-ever FA Cup in 2009 tie took us to The Coach & Horses to play the world's oldest football club (9)

All answers found at the foot of the Stats Entertainment page



GUESS WHO?

QUIZ

Words With this being FCUM's opening FA Cup match of the season, tonight we focus on some of Manchester United's third-round ties (before we were formed)...

1. In one of the final matches before Munich in 1958, United met which team now playing a league below FC?
2. The Reds beat this lower-league side in the third round of their 1985 success, avenging the shock defeat a year earlier. Who are they?
3. Mark Robins scored the crucial goal at the City Ground in 1990. Who made a fine assist?
4. MUFC played this team twice in their opening Cup game during the 1990s. Both were away matches. Name the team and ground.
5. They were a non-league team when United drew with them at Old Trafford in 2005. The money they earned from that tie (including an unlikely replay which MUFC won 2-0 thanks to Ronaldo and Rooney) is said to have saved a club that since went fan-owned, are now in League Two, and who FCUM played in 2012. Name the club.



Pontefract Colls



Tonight we welcome Pontefract Collieries to Broadhurst Park for what will be the first-ever match between our two sides.

The club was formed in 1958 and currently plays in the Northern Premier League's Division One North West, where they rose to that level for the first time ever two years ago following a rather up-and-down existence over the past half a decade.

In 2014-15, The Colls finished as runners-up in North Counties East League Division One and were promoted back to the NCEL Premier Division after a 15-year absence, but the following season proved a forgettable one as they finished third-bottom of the league and suffered an instant return to the First Division.

However, in 2016-17 Pontefract secured promotion at the first time of asking thanks to a last-day victory earning them the runners-up spot, and the following year they went one better by celebrating a NCEL Premier title success and with it a second successive promotion for a place in the fourth tier of non-league football.



The 2018-19 season almost saw Colls make it three promotions on the spin on their debut Northern Premier campaign, finishing runners-up to Morpeth Town in Division One East before suffering play-off heartache with defeat to Brighouse Town denying them a step up to FC United's level.

The season did, however, deliver a double serving of silverware as the club, with success in the Bill Cook Memorial Trophy and the inaugural Colliery Cup where they overcame namesakes Atherton.

Last term then saw the West Yorkshire side retain both of the trophies during a successful pre-season and when the campaign was declared null and void in March, the team was comfortably placed in fourth position and with serious ambitions of promotion via the play-offs.

Pontefract's leading scorer last season was Joe Lumsden, who netted 11 league goals to be ranked joint-ninth top scorer – and five behind a certain Tom Greaves at Ossett.

They'll do doubt, like ourselves, be eager to make up for that missed opportunity for a crack at promotion this time around.

Like many teams from old mining towns, tonight's visitors are often referred to simply as 'The Colls'.

Former Rotherham United and Hartlepool United player Andy Monkhouse was named as Pontefract's new manager during the summer, taking over from Craig Parry who left the club for Worksop Town along with his management team.

The 39-year-old had signed for Tadcaster Albion in January and made his name under Ronnie Moore at Rotherham, playing for the Millers in the second tier before spending a seven-year spell with Hartlepool via a loan period at Swindon Town. Capable of playing in midfield or up front, he also represented Bristol Rovers, Grimsby Town, Alfreton Town, Whitby Town and Ossett United.



Pontefract Collieries play their home games at a ground traditionally known as Beechnut Lane but following a number of sponsorships in recent years is also currently known as The Football Family Stadium, with a capacity of 1,200 with seating for 300.

Incidentally, if you ever attend a game at Pontefract and decide to sit down then you will be occupying one of the many often-unused seats from Maine Road, with Colls obtaining the rarely-used items following the demolition of Manchester City's old ground in 2003.



FC UNITED.....1
NANTWICH TOWN.....1

FCUM kicked off the competitive season with a stalemate against Nantwich Town on Saturday.

Our Northern Premier League opener saw the sun shining on Broadhurst Park, with a limited crowd seeing just 574 (plus volunteers) in attendance – slightly below the set capacity of 600 due to the Dabbers returning a number of unsold away tickets at the last minute.

And those Nantwich fans who missed out also missed FC United old boy Sean Cooke net the game's equalising goal not long after the hosts had taken the lead, to deny the Reds a first-ever home victory on the opening day of a season.

The first half proved an even affair between two sides who will hope to be amongst the promotion places come the end of the season, with both having chances to take the lead.

The game's opening goal eventually arrived just after the hour mark when Mike Fowler hustled possession of a through ball on the edge of the Nantwich area, laying off to sub Charlie Ennis whose goal-bound effort was deflected into the back of the SMRE net.

Yet just four minutes later and after seeing a previous strike ruled out for offside, the Dabbers were level after ex-Red Cooke took advantage of an open defence to fire past a helpless Dan Lavercombe, who enjoyed an impressive debut in the FCUM goal.

We might have been denied that first opening-day home win but there's no doubt those in attendance certainly enjoyed being back in the old matchday routine at the weekend, and will be hoping for many more fine days out at Broadhurst Park over the coming months.

So, what did you do during lockdown?

In April, Jonathan Allsopp began assembling a collection of the FC United related writings on his blog into a book to raise funds for the club at a time when it had virtually no income coming in following the coronavirus lockdown and the premature ending of 2019-20.

Five months on and more than 560 copies of 'The Red Thread – collected writings roughly related to FC United of Manchester' have been sold, raising over £7,000 for the club.

Here Jonathan describes how self-publishing, marketing and distributing The Red Thread kept him fairly busy during the lockdown

Several weeks ago I was on a video call with a mate and we were nattering about what we'd been up to during the lockdown.

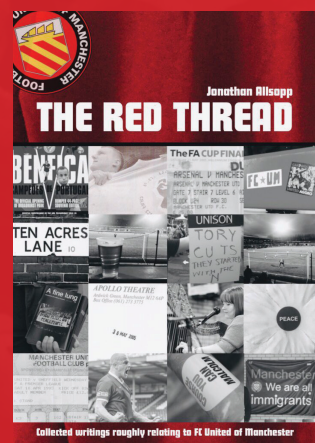
“Not much really. I haven't been one of those lockdown wankers that's written a book or learnt a foreign language,” reckoned my mate whilst I – who at this point had been devoting almost every spare minute of the lockdown self-publishing a book to raise some much-needed funds for FC United – took a deep breath and confirmed that I too had not done a lot either.

And we laughed about this a few weeks later on another call as my mate said “you kept this quiet then” as he brandished his copy of the, by now, published book that this particular ‘lockdown wanker’ had sent him a few days before.

The idea for ‘The Red Thread – collected writings roughly relating to FC United of Manchester’ stemmed from the first ever online Course You Can Malcolm event in early April when the poet John Darwin invited viewers to get a copy of his latest collection of poetry in return for a donation to FC United.

The club was by now facing up to the reality of potentially many months with hardly any money coming in (a £100,000 gap in our finances was forecast at the time).

I bought one and donated a tenner and when the book arrived a few days later it struck me what a wonderful gesture it was – someone offering something that they had lovingly created in return for a donation to the football club that they own. It got me thinking.



There's a stack of FC-related articles that I've written over the last seven years that are basically sat gathering internet dust on my 'nowtmuchtosay' blog. Why not collect some of them into a book that could be sold to raise funds for the club, I thought.

In total there are about 80 pieces posted on my blog that relate to FC United in some way – the viewing figures for some of the pieces, which have grabbed attention on social media, are measured in thousands but mostly it's a case of a few dozen clicks if I'm lucky.

The idea of compiling a book wasn't as daft as it perhaps sounded given that for much of the last couple of years I had been in writing mode anyway, scribbling a book about life as an NHS finance manager (a sort-of bean counting version,

but much duller, of Adam Kay's 'This Is Going To Hurt') and back in February, in what almost feels like a different decade now, I'd begun emailing proposals to literary agents and publishers to see if anyone might be interested in snapping up this potentially moderate seller.

But after a few “thanks but no thanks” replies, Covid-19 bulldozed everything and with no shops in which to sell books or literary events at which to promote them, the bottom appeared to have fallen out of the publishing world and no-one was in the remotest bit interested in reading my thoughts on NHS financial matters.

So writing a book had occupied my spare time for a while – all I had to do now was switch my attention to another project.

The advantage this time was that almost all of the writing had already been done. It just needed me to select some of the “best” bits and knit them into a whole that somehow flowed and would make sense to those who hadn't been embroiled in FC United's politics during what has been a tumultuous period for the club and even to fans of other clubs. A doddle.

I daresay, if you were writing a book now about the last seven years at FC,

it would probably benefit from a smidgen of hindsight – the sense that we saw the turmoil that engulfed the club in 2015 and 2016 coming.

But in a book comprising more than 30 “warts and all” pieces hastily cobbled together and spanning seven years, there's little room for any historical revision.

The gap between when these articles were written and the events they describe is typically no more than a few days or weeks.

It's safe to say that anyone writing a piece about FC in 2013 entitled “we could settle wars with this” probably wasn't anticipating the civil war that threatened the club's very existence only a couple of years later. As several people have pointed out to me after reading the book – it's an honest account of what's gone on at the club since 2013 and hopefully one of the book's strengths.

On a personal level, the book also traces the evolution of my writing style from the rather preachy, occasionally shouty, earlier pieces about how this particular supporter-owned football club was going to change the world to the later pieces which, I like to think, are a little more thoughtful and perhaps less black and white in their conclusions.

A reflection, perhaps, of the extent to which the club has had to compromise a little in recent years in order to survive – the covering up of the Peterloo logo on the away shirt last season was a good example of this new-found pragmatism.

Where once we'd have said, bollocks to it, we'll pay any fine that comes our way, now, careful management of the club's cash and financial sustainability are crucial.

In early May, with its typesetting and design in progress, I rather tentatively began marketing The Red Thread and more than five



months on we've somehow sold more than 560 copies of the book and, so far, raised over £7,000 for the club (the initial print run of 450 sold out so a further batch of 150 were printed).

The response has been wonderful and copies have been air-mailed out to places as far afield as New Zealand, Australia, Japan, USA, Canada and several European countries including Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden and Malta.

When I first mooted the idea back in April, my intention was to raise a thousand quid for the club by printing a hundred books, selling a few dozen via mail order, and then sticking the rest in the club shop for supporters to buy when we get back to attending football matches again.

So to have raised more than seven times that sum for the club is tremendous and testament, yet again, to the generosity of the supporters – many of whom have shelled out considerably more than the asking price of a tenner for the book.

It's been a lot of hard graft

putting the book together and then printing, selling and distributing it, but it's been a 'blast' (as I think the youngsters say) and I've loved every minute.

I must say a big thank you to everyone that's helped with the book, particularly Tony Howard of Midjmo Media (and formerly the editor of this programme) who, I reckon, must have spent many hours typesetting the whole thing and designing the front and back covers of the book, which look fantastic.

Thanks, too, to the photographers Russ Hart, Matt Wilkinson and Richard Searle for kindly giving me permission to use their ace photos on the covers.

And thanks ever so much to everyone that's bought



the book and helped the club out in these strange, financially perilous times.

I hope The Red Thread represents a half-decent "warts and all" addition to the FC United bookshelves.

And talking of 'shelves', flogging the book by mail order has been great but there is a part of me that would really like to see a few copies of the book nestled on a shelf in the club shop come the start of the new season.

It's just a personal thing really but taking books out of boxes and sticking them straight into bubble-wrapped envelopes isn't quite the same as seeing them on a shelf somewhere.

Spare me this last little bit of lockdown wanker-ism if you don't mind.

Stats Entertainment

with FCUM Radio's PAUL HINSON



This is only the third time we have played an FA Cup tie under floodlights that was not a replay, the others being the unforgettable win at Rochdale in 2010 and the more forgettable loss at home to Chesterfield in 2015, with both of those game being moved for TV purposes.

In daytime ties FCUM have won 15 (46%) of 33, with nine drawn (27%) and nine lost (27%). Under lights the Reds have played 11 ties, winning seven (64%) and losing four (36%). All bar the two games mentioned above were replays so that explains the lack of draws.

At home under lights we have won two and lost three of five games.

In September 2008 we faced Nantwich Town in a replay at Gigg Lane after a 1-1 draw, and with Dabber Dave Walker grabbing a hat-trick to spoil our first ever home game in the competition, we lost 4-3. This is the only treble scored against FCUM so far in the FA Cup.



In December 2010, League One leaders Brighton and Hove Albion came to Gigg Lane for a replay after a 1-1 draw and disposed of their non-league opponents 4-0, with the attendance of 6,731 still a cup record for the club. Chesterfield were here at Broadhurst Park in November 2015 with old boy Ollie Banks (pictured above) completing the scoring in a 4-1 victory for the then League One side.

In September 2017, Handsworth Parramore came to Moston after holding the Reds to a 1-1 draw in Worksop and lost 6-2. Connor McCarthy was the star man on the night scoring three goals, becoming the fourth player to

grab a hat-trick in the FA Cup after Michael Norton, Nicky Platt and Luke Ashworth.

Finally, in October 2017 Stockport County squandered a three-goal advantage at Edgeley Park and were made to suffer in the rematch.

Despite Matty Hughes and Michael Connor being red-carded in the first half, Tom Greaves scored the only goal of the game after 48 minutes.

Pontefract Collieries are the 11th club FC have played with mining connections in the past, the others being Alfreton Town, Atherton Collieries, Brodsworth MW, Durham City, Frickley Athletic, Garforth Town, Hednesford Town, Hucknall Town, Rushall Olympic and Wakefield.

Against Yorkshire opposition in the FA Cup the Reds currently lead 3-1, losing to Harrogate Town in 2016 but eliminating Sheffield in 2009, Ossett Town in 2016 and Handsworth in 2017 – who are another Sheffield club that were using Worksop's old ground at the time.

HALF-TIME ENTERTAINMENT ANSWERS

GUESS WHO? James Joyce.

NAME THE GROUND: The Willows, Salford.

QUIZ: 1 Workington. 2 Bournemouth. 3 Mark Hughes. 4 Sheffield United and Bramall Lane. 5 Exeter City.

CROSSWORD: Across: 2) FleetwoodTown, 4) MichaelNorton, 5) Barrow, 9) NantwichTown, 10) JeromeWright, 11) Trafford, 12) BrianLittle. Down: 1) Altrincham, 3) NorthFerribyUnited, 6) RadcliffeBorough, 7) NorthwichVictoria, 8) Sheffield.

If you've read this and think you'd quite fancy buying a copy of The Red Thread then there are copies on sale for £10 in the club shop (with all proceeds going to the club) or, if you'd prefer to receive one in a bubble-lined envelope, you can email jonathan.allso@live.co.uk and Jonathan will send you one. He also has a PDF version of the book available for those who prefer to put an 'e' in front of their books.

Finally, if you would like to read Jonathan's excellent blog 'nowtmuchtosay', then you can visit nowtmuchtosay.wordpress.com

meet the owners

AIDAN HOPSON



How did you get involved with FC and how did you first hear about the club?

We were season ticket holders at OT and shareholders as well. I didn't want to sell the shares but was forced in to it.

The attitude of the ticket office staff and the aggressive behaviour of the matchday stewards made home games less and less enjoyable. We got shifted from our normal seats and ended up sat at opposite ends of the ground until they finished the new north stand, then we were able to pick our seats. Still the atmosphere was being strangled and we were always told to sit down.

I went to a few games to watch FC in the first season and we then gave up our Old Trafford season tickets for the second season and became regulars home and away. The main thing for us was no more money to the Glazers and to have a smile back on our faces at football.

Sum up in a sentence what FC United means to you:

Making friends not millionaires and smiling at football.

What does the club do best?

Recognises the fans are the lifeblood of the club and works with them.

What could the club do better?

I think that we have changed for the better and the faults that we had and the problems that we had a couple of years ago have been sorted. We are not perfect but we are good at looking at things and changing what we do.

Jeans or socks on first?

Jeans. Socks is always optional.

What was your first memory of attending a football match?

Waiting outside the Shakespeare Pub in Huddersfield for my dad to come out with a bottle of pop, some crisps and two bob to get in to the match. I remember a programme was sixpence.

Where do you hope FC United will be in five years?

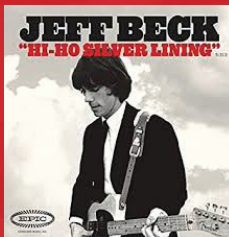
An established National League side.

What song gets you on the dance floor?

Hi Ho Silver Lining usually works if I've had enough beer.

Do you do any volunteer work for the club? If so, tell us about how you help out.

Don't live too near to be able to help much but we always collect loads of stuff for Big Coat Day, provide lots of plants for the FC Diggers, and are always happy to bring along a bottle for a raffle whenever needed.



Where do you stand/sit at Broadhurst Park?
Main Stand Paddock near the Barmy Army.

Funniest thing seen at the match?

Rory running around the pitch at Radcliffe to kick-off after his dismissal.

Best FC moment?

There's been a few but the opening game at 'our' new ground against Benfica and the singing of 'This is our Club' and 'Dirty Old Town' in the Main Stand bar made me shed a few tears of joy.

Favourite player?

Michael Donohue.

Favourite past player?

Jerome Wright. Mischievous but when on form he was a delight to watch.

Favourite flag?

Makin' Friends Not Millionaires.

Best and worst terrace songs over the years?

Best: This is our club. Worst: Never let the passion go?

Do you collect anything daft or what you consider to be normal?

I am a phillumenist. Which is perfectly normal (a collector of matchboxes – and I have a lot).



If Reno was coming round for tea, what would you cook for him?

I would text my mate Costa – who has the village chippy – for fish, chips and options of peas, curry or gravy.

If you would like to appear in our Meet The Owners section, please email your answers to the club office



For highlights of FCUM's matches, along with post-match interviews, and plenty more, visit www.fcum.tv

#NoDrainNoGame



Scroll of Honour

As part of the recent 'No Drain No Game' Crowdfunder, which raised in excess of £32k to renew the Broadhurst pitch during the summer, 66 fans kindly purchased the 'Matchday Programme Roll of Honour'.

Their names will be featured in this section over the coming games. Thank you for your support!

Ian Muirhead
Isaac Muirhead
Sam Mullock
Atle Oevestad
Darren O'Neill
Chris Procter
Paul Quayle
James Quinn
Tobias Renton
Travis Renton
Darren Shepherd
Linda Southern
Scott Taylor
John Warmisham
Jonathan Wennekers
Gaz Wharton
Mark Wheeler
Tim White
Jaydon Williams
Tim Williams
Tim Workman
Leon Auger

FAN-OWNED CLUBS

HFC FALKE



PHILIP MARKHARDT tells us about the supporter-owned German club, with questions supplied by Dutch Red Ruud Van de Graaf.

What's the history of your club and how/why did you become fan-owned?
HFC Falke was founded back in 2014 as a reaction to the decision by the membership of Hamburger SV to turn the club into a company and open it to investors.

For the founding members it was clear that they could not support a club – or company – where the rights of the members would be limited in the future.

The idea was to found a club owned by fans and run by fans – at least around the team which certainly is managed and run by people with a history as players and trainers/managers.

How is being a member of your club different from being a fan of a non-fan owned club?

You can have your say.

Each member is able to directly vote and candidate for the board and take part in the daily work and life of the club as an official or volunteer.

What level do you play and what support do you have for home and away games?

We play in the so-called Bezirksliga (North) of Hamburg. It is the seventh tier.

Latest numbers (which are not really representative due to the last season being called off because of Covid-19) were about 150 to 180 home and around 50 to 80 away.

What activities do you organise besides football?

Regular meetings at our “club house”, an annual Cider pressing event (as we produce our own), and a Christmas event. Furthermore, some members founded a Cornhole department within the club.

How have you coped with the Covid crisis so far and how have fans contributed in keeping the club afloat?

Activities were almost completely called off due to strict regulations in the city of Hamburg. The only possibility were virtual meetings via Zoom. Nevertheless there was a charity Cider takeaway sale for the club and the cornhole guys could meet casually in line with regulations.

By the time I am writing this (at the start

of September) we had two friendlies in the last two weeks in the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, where clubs were allowed to train and play earlier.

Now we are able to train and play with a total number of 30 people. Speaking of this: the management during the Covid crisis oversaw moving our facilities to Vogt-Kölln-Straße, meaning we're back closer to our original neighbourhood.

We are quite happy as the pitch at Vogt-Kölln-Straße is artificial, which will give us the best opportunities to play in the upcoming season which will only have a short winter break. It will enable us to play in unfavourable weather conditions as well.

The season, by the way, will start in mid-September with the first leg of the cup.

Do you have contact with other fan-owned teams and in what sense is that?

At the beginning of last season we welcomed Beveren for a friendly match on the occasion of our fifth anniversary. In November a supporters team took part in the Israfans tournament, teaming up with fans of Beitar Nordia from Jerusalem. There are links with supporters of the team since 2014.

There are some slight links to – please don't be angry now – City of Liverpool FC as well. Furthermore, there are some links between supporters from our club and Austria Salzburg.

What are the short and long-term aims of your club?

Our goals are to find a permanent home stadium in Hamburg, which is quite difficult. After three years in the seventh tier, we also

want to put our focus on promotion as our aim still is the Oberliga Hamburg (fifth tier). And of course we want to grow and found further areas like a youth department.

What do you know about FC?

We have followed developments in Manchester since the discussion around Glazer taking over United erupted.

FC United was a very important role model for us when we were in the founding stages of our club. Not by chance, a member of FCUM was at our first official AGM.

Some of our fans have also visited FC a couple of times in the past.

Interviewer's note: HFC Falke have their own version of This is Our Club, which sounds brilliant in German. Links can be found on Youtube



FC UNITED PLAYER SPONSORS



MEN'S TEAM

NEIL REYNOLDS
The Scarf Family

BRIAN RICHARDSON
Peter Ross & Co, Accountants
& Business Advisors

DAVID CHADWICK
Les Croft

MIKE FAULKNER
Renov-8 Aeronautical
Groundlighting Civils Ltd

DAN COCKERLINE
Stockport Branch

DAN LAVERCOMBE
Main Stand Crew, Cheshire
Branch

MICHAEL POTTS
The Scarf Family

ADAM DODD
Gary Nelson

JACK LENEHAN
Belle Vue Vinyl Night

LUKE GRIFFITHS
Jane & Steve Wood

MICHAEL DONOHUE
Stockport Branch

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Claire Croft

FINLAY SINCLAIR-SMITH
Oldest Winger in Town

MORGAN HOMSON-SMITH
Course You Can Malcolm

MICHAEL FOWLER
First Actuarial

REGAN LINNEY
Alex Croft

JAMES DEADMAN
KitAid

OLIVIA SMITH
Gally

ACADEMY TEAM

Special thanks to FC United's
CATALAN BRANCH, who
have sponsored six Academy
players – Israel Aghahowa,
Alfie Clarke, Osman Agerso,
Drayke Holland, Charles
Adomako and Kelvin Agyei

WOMEN'S TEAM

CHELSEA PATIENT
Kas & Sheila Kabbani

JESS McCARRICK
Dale Leslie

To sponsor an FC United player, it costs (excluding VAT) £250 for the men's team, £100 for the women's side and £50 for an academy player.

All men and women's team sponsors will have their names printed in each edition of FCUM Review, and will be presented with a signed shirt by their chosen player, along with a pitchside presentation photograph. Academy sponsors will receive a signed picture.

If you would like to become a player sponsor then please email the club at office@fc-utd.co.uk or phone 0161 769 2005.



FC United of Manchester would like to thank our academy sponsors Chantry, whose website can be found at www.chantry.com

FC UNITED OF MANCHESTER

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES 2020-21



SEPTEMBER

19 Nantwich Town (H)
26 Scarborough Athletic (H)
29 Hyde United (A)

OCTOBER

3 Grantham Town (H)
10 Morpeth Town (A)
17 Stafford Rangers (H)
20 Lancaster City (H)
24 Whitby Town (A)
27 South Shields (A)

NOVEMBER

3 Warrington Town (H)
7 Bamber Bridge (A)
14 Stalybridge Celtic (H)
17 Mickleover (H)
21 Buxton (A)
28 Atherton Collieries (H)

DECEMBER

5 Basford United (A)
12 Gainsborough Trinity (A)
19 Ashton United (H)
26 Witton Albion (H)

JANUARY

1 Radcliffe (A)
9 Scarborough Athletic (A)
16 Matlock Town (A)
23 Bamber Bridge (H)
30 Warrington Town (A)

FEBRUARY

6 South Shields (H)
13 Stalybridge Celtic (A)
20 Lancaster City (A)
23 Whitby Town (H)
27 Morpeth Town (H)

MARCH

6 Stafford Rangers (A)
13 Mickleover (A)
20 Buxton (H)
23 Basford United (H)
27 Atherton Collieries (A)

APRIL

3 Hyde United (H)
5 Ashton United (A)
10 Matlock Town (H)
17 Nantwich Town (A)
24 Gainsborough Trinity (H)

MAY

1 Witton Albion (A)
3 Radcliffe (H)
8 Grantham Town (A)



A full list of fixtures, including scheduled FA Cup and Trophy dates, can be found on the official site

TONIGHT'S SQUADS

FA CUP
FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND

Tuesday 22nd September
2020



DAN LAVERCOMBE ●
JOSH BROOKS ●
LENNY FIELDHOUSE ●
AARON MORRIS ●
TYLER OWEN ●
CURTIS JONES ●
ADAM DODD ●
CHRIS DOYLE ●
MIKE POTTS ●
LUKE GRIFFITHS ●
JACK LENEHAN ●
MIKE DONOHUE ●
MORGAN HOMSON SMITH ●
FINLAY SINCLAIR-SMITH ●
REGAN LINNEY ●
DANIEL COCKERLINE ●
PAUL ENNIS ●
MICHAEL FOWLER ●
TOM STEAD ●
KAIN DEAN ●
SANDRO DA COSTA ●

Tonight's referee:

Mark Reeves

Assistants:

Ian Muncaster

Janzib Rigby

BP BOOST
DEVELOPMENT FUND

NEXT HOME

MATCH:

versus

Scarborough

Saturday 26th

September

(3pm)

● MIKEY EMERY
● ROSS McKENNA
● JACK CAWTHORNE
● TOM CLARE
● DOM CLAXTON
● BEN GORDAN
● MATTY NEBARD
● CALLUM WALMSLEY
● FABIAN BAILEY
● ALBERT IBRAHIMI
● DAN KEANE
● NATHAN MODESTE
● GAVIN ROTHERY
● SCOTT SMITH
● ALEKS STARCENKO
● SAM TINGLE
● JED ZANOS
● SAM CABLE
● DAMIAN REEVES
●
●